Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 18, 2017

Randy L. Long
Accreditation Manager, Calibration, EMC Testing/Inspection
ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board
500 Montgomery Street
Suite 625
Alexandria, VA 22314

ET Docket No. 16-313

Dear Mr. Long:

The Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) is pleased to inform you that the scope of recognition for the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)[1] has been expanded to include the accreditation of testing laboratories located in non-MRA countries, identified in your Request for Recognition, dated December 15, 2016,[2] that seek recognition by the Commission to perform testing of telecommunication equipment subject to the Commission's rules. It is the responsibility of the accreditation body to review the qualifications of a test laboratory's personnel, management systems, record keeping and reporting practices; to send recognized experts to observe testing at the laboratory; and to verify the testing laboratory's competence to perform tests in accordance with FCC-related measurement procedures.[3]

To perform compliance testing that is acceptable under our Declaration of Conformity (DoC) and Certification programs, a laboratory must be accredited by a body that the Commission has recognized as meeting our requirements for performing the accreditation of testing laboratories. There are two ways that we recognize the accreditation of laboratories. A laboratory can be designated to the FCC by a body under the terms of a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), or it can be designated for FCC recognition by an accreditation body recognized pursuant to Section 2.949 of our rules.[4] Your request for an expanded recognition was considered under the second path, because at the present time the United States does not have a telecommunications MRA with the countries in which you seek to accredit laboratories. Under this process, ANAB must submit to the Commission's laboratory identifying information and other required information regarding its capabilities and expertise for each laboratory that it is accrediting under this

---

[1] The ANAB program was originally recognized by the Commission on March 12, 2010 to accredit testing laboratories. *Letter* from Julius P. Knapp, Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, FCC to Mr. Keith Greenaway, Vice President of ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, March 12, 2010. Available at https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/7520934413.pdf.

[2] The Request for Recognition and documentation in support of this request has been included in this docket file.

[3] *See Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 2, and 15 of the Commission's Rules regarding Authorization of Radiofrequency Equipment and Amendment of Part 68 regarding Approval of Terminal Equipment by Telecommunications Certification Bodies,* ET Docket No. 13-44, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 16335, 16353, para. 40 & n.121 (2014).

[4] 47 C.F.R. §§ 2.948(f) and 2.949.

expanded scope; the Commission will review this information and decide whether to recognize the laboratory and to include it on a public list of accredited laboratories willing to perform testing for the general public.[5]

Section 2.949 of the Commission's rules sets forth the requirements for the recognition of laboratory accreditation bodies. An entity seeking to be recognized by the Commission as an accreditation body for test laboratories must demonstrate that it is compliant with the applicable International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards for recognizing such bodies and competent in assessing test laboratories that perform measurements in support of the applicable FCC technical regulations. The ISO/IEC standard used for recognizing accreditation bodies is ISO/IEC 17011, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. Accreditation of test laboratories is to be based on ISO/IEC standard 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories,* and on the FCC requirements. OET has provided additional guidance in KDB Publication 974614 on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission's accredited testing laboratory program.[6]

To demonstrate the credentials and qualifications to expand ANAB's current FCC recognition to perform accreditation of laboratories in non-MRA countries that test equipment to the Commission's requirements, ANAB submitted information addressing the following requirements:

(a) *Successful completion of an ISO/IEC 17011:2004, "Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies" peer review, such as being a signatory to an accreditation agreement that is acceptable to the Commission.* ANAB has submitted evidence of compliance to ISO/IEC 17011 by participation in the APLAC, ILAC and IAAC MRAs and the successful completion of a peer review.[7]

(b) *Experience with the accreditation of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), radio and telecommunications testing laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories."* Since ANAB was recognized in March 2010 to accredit U.S. testing laboratories to test devices to the FCC requirements, their experience has been verified by OET staff that participated in witness audits of EMC/Radio/Telecom testing laboratories.

(c) *Accreditation personnel/assessors with specific technical experience on the Commission equipment authorization rules and requirements.* As ANAB is currently recognized to accredit testing laboratories to the Commission's requirements, OET staff have participated in witness audits of ANAB assessing testing laboratories to perform FCC testing and ANAB has submitted biographical summaries for each of their assessors who

---

[5] 47 C.F.R. § 2.948(c).

[6] KDB Publication 974614 is available at https://apps.fcc.gov/oetcf/kdb/index.cfm.

[7] Information about the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA is available at https://www.aplac.org/aplac_mra.html. Information about the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) can be found at www.ilac.org. Information about the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) can be found at http://www.iaac.org.mx/English/Index.php.

will assess testing laboratories to FCC requirements. The documentation submitted regarding the qualifications of accreditation personnel/assessors shows an adequate level of competency to perform assessments of testing laboratories to the FCC requirements.

(d) *Procedures and policies developed for the accreditation and designation of testing laboratories for FCC equipment authorization programs, including procedures for accrediting testing laboratories located outside of the United States, in countries that do not have an MRA with the United States.* ANAB submitted an extensive list of procedures and policies that will be followed for test laboratories they assess.

Copies of these materials can be found as part of ANAB's application materials, which were placed in ET Docket 16-313.

On July 20, 2017 we issued a Public Notice that sought comment on the qualifications and capabilities of ANAB to accredit test laboratories and whether it meets our requirements for performing compliance testing.[8] In response to the Public Notice, commenters supported expanding the recognition of ANAB to permit it to perform the accreditation of testing laboratories located in the non-MRA countries it specified in its application.[9]

The Commission's rules delegate authority to the Chief, OET, to make determinations regarding the acceptability of individual accrediting organizations to enter into agreements with them to perform accreditation of testing laboratories under the rules (47 C.F.R. § 0.241(f)). We have reviewed the information submitted by ANAB for each of the four elements discussed above, and have determined that ANAB has demonstrated the expertise to perform accreditation of testing laboratories that test equipment to the Commission's requirements in each of the countries requested. Further, our experience with ANAB through its existing accreditation activities and the lack of any filings disputing its qualifications or competence further validate our finding. Therefore, OET grants ANAB's request for expanded scope recognition. We will accept designations for FCC recognition of accredited testing laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 performed by ANAB as required by 47 C.F.R. § 2.948 for testing laboratories located in the non-MRA countries identified in your Request for Recognition, dated December 15, 2016. We note that if a telecom MRA is executed between the United States and a country for which you have been recognized, then the terms of the MRA will apply.[10]

---

[8] *See OET Seeks Comment on Application by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) for Expanded Scope Recognition as a Laboratory Accreditation Body for Authority to Accredit Laboratories in Additional Countries*, DA 17-691, Public Notice, released July 20, 2017.

[9] No comments addressed the specific capabilities of ANAB to assess testing laboratories in non-MRA countries. The docket also includes comments that express a concern that US located laboratories are not currently able to market?? products in some countries with which the US does not have an MRA. *See, e.g.*, Cisco Systems, Inc. Comments. These comments raise general concerns about the recognition of laboratory accreditation bodies outside the MRA context and we note that the Commission has already addressed this matter; as such, these comments have no bearing on our analysis of ANAB's application for expanded recognition to perform laboratory accreditations: *See Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 2, and 15 of the Commission's Rules regarding Authorization of Radiofrequency Equipment*, ET Docket 13-44, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 7426 (2016) (*EA Order*).

[10] *See* 47 C.F.R. § 2.948(f)(2) (limiting laboratory accreditation under the Section 2.949 process to laboratories "located in a country that does not have an MRA with the United States.") *See also EA Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 7429, para. 10.

To ensure the continued integrity of the laboratory accreditation program, OET will periodically review the accreditation process and maintain close coordination with each of the organizations that it has recognized to perform accreditations. OET will pursue opportunities to observe peer review assessments and to observe and participate in witness assessments of ANAB to ensure that ANAB continues to meet the Commission's criteria for recognition as an accreditation body.

Thank you for your cooperation during this evaluation process. For more information or questions please contact George Tannahill at (301) 362-3026, george.tannahill@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,

for Julius Knapp
Chief,
Office of Engineering and Technology